Jim Balent's
TAROT
WITCH of the BLACK ROSE®
BROADSWORD COMICS®
March #103
$2.95
Mature Readers

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Jim Balent's Tarot: Witch of the Black Rose

"Coven of the Nameless Ones"

#103

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Publisher & President
Holly Golightly
Vice President

Jim Balent

Meet & Creep with Lord!

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Holly Golightly

All Choked up to meet Lord!

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xxx
Holly!

Tarot: Witch of the Black Rose® #103. March 2017 First printing. BroadSword Comics: PO Box 596, Brodheadsville, PA 18322 Tarot and all other characters are TM & © Jim Balent 1999-2017. All Rights reserved. BroadSword Comics® TM Jim Balent 1999-2017 . All similarities to persons living or dead are purely coincidental or with their permission. No part of this book may be printed without authority of publisher. Printed in USA !

IT IS TAKING ALL MY ENERGY TO REMAIN CALM.
I WANT TO DISINTEGRATE THIS SERPENT WITH A MAGICK BOLT.
HE TRICKED ME. HE HELPED THE COVEN WITHOUT NAMES CAPTURE ME AND HOLD ME IN AN IRON CAGE.
THEY SUBMERGED ME IN A WELL, FILLED WITH PUTRID SLIME, ON MY WEDDING DAY!
YEAH, I WANT TO DISINTEGRATE HIM REALLY BAD!
BUT, I CAN'T! I NEED INFORMATION!
HERE IS THE TRAITOR, LITTLE ONE.
NO, NO, PLEASSSE! LET ME GO!
WHERE CAN I FIND THE COVEN WITHOUT NAMES?! SPEAK, SERPENT!
I... I CAN'T TELL YOU. THEY... THEY WILL KILL ME IF I DO! BESIDESSS... THEY ONLY HIRED ME; I DON'T TRULY BELONG TO THEIR COVEN.
YOU SEEM TO BE UNAWARE OF YOUR SITUATION, SERPENT. I AM THE SWORDMAIDEN TO THE GODDESS, CHARGED WITH KEEPING THE BALANCE BETWEEN MAN AND MAGICK. YOU AND THE COVEN WITHOUT NAMES HAVE UPSET THAT BALANCE. YOU HAVE A CHANCE TO HELP ALIGN THE SCALES. DENY ME THE ANSWER I SEEK AND I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO DELIVER JUSTICE UPON YOUR HEAD FOR YOUR PART IN MY ABDUCTION!

TELL HER!
ACK!!!!! OKAY OKAY! AT THE BEND IN THE SSSTREAM, WHERE THE TWO SSSTANDING STONES TIP AND MEET.
YOU MUST SSSAY THE PASSWORD TO ACTIVATE THE PORTAL TO THEIR HIDDEN MEETING PLACE.
ONLY ONE BEING IS ALLOWED TO PASSSS AT A TIME AND EACH BEING HAS HISSS OWN PASSWORD.
THAT MEANS I WILL NOT BE ABLE TO FOLLOW, LITTLE ONE.
THAT'S FINE, LORD SPLIT FOOT. THE BATTLE IS MINE.
TELL ME, SERPENT! WHAT IS YOUR CODEWORD!
ACK! NO NO! IT'S NOT! I SSSWEAR! SSSTOP SQUEEZING! I TELL THE TRUTH!!!!
THAT SOUNDS LIKE NO LANGUAGE I EVER HEARD BEFORE! IS THIS A TRICK?!

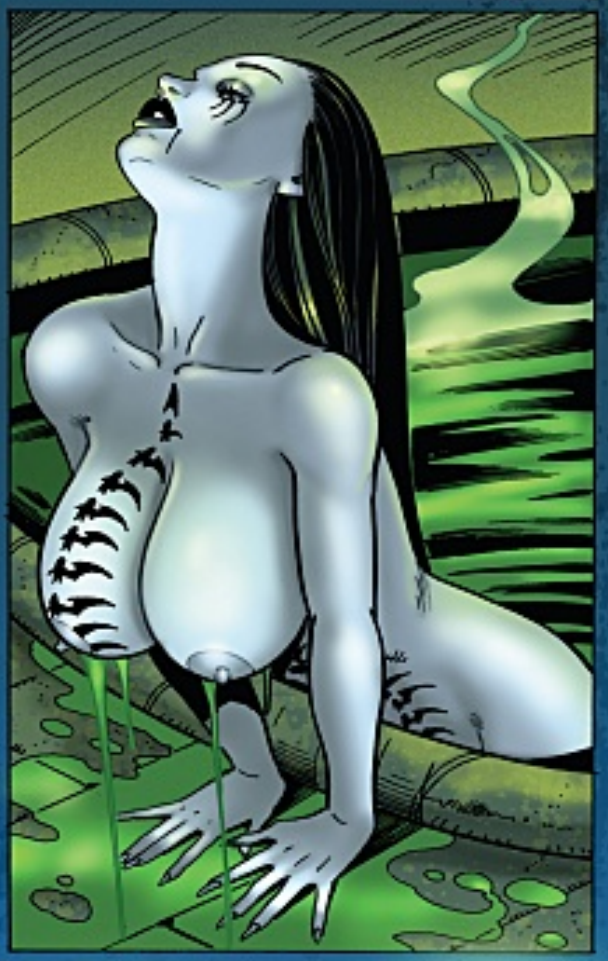
I KNOW THE LOCATION OF THE TIPPED STANDING STONES. FOR YOUR SAKE, SERPENT, I HOPE YOU ARE TELLING THE TRUTH.
WHAT SHALL I DO WITH HIM, LITTLE ONE?
IF THIS IS A TRICK AND I DO NOT RETURN... BITE HIS HEAD OFF!
THERE! THIS IS THE PLACE.
DO I TRUST THIS SERPENT? HE TRICKED ME ONCE BEFORE WITH HIS FORKED TONGUE. IT COULD BE ANOTHER TRAP!
HE KNOWS HIS LIFE IS ON THE LINE, HE FEARS ME. IF HE LIES, HE DIES.
I REALLY HAVE NO CHOICE. HE IS MY ONLY LEAD. BE IT FALSE OR NOT... I MUST FOLLOW THROUGH.

WELL..
HERE'S THE MOMENT OF TRUTH.
I HOPE I PRONOUNCE
THIS RIGHT.

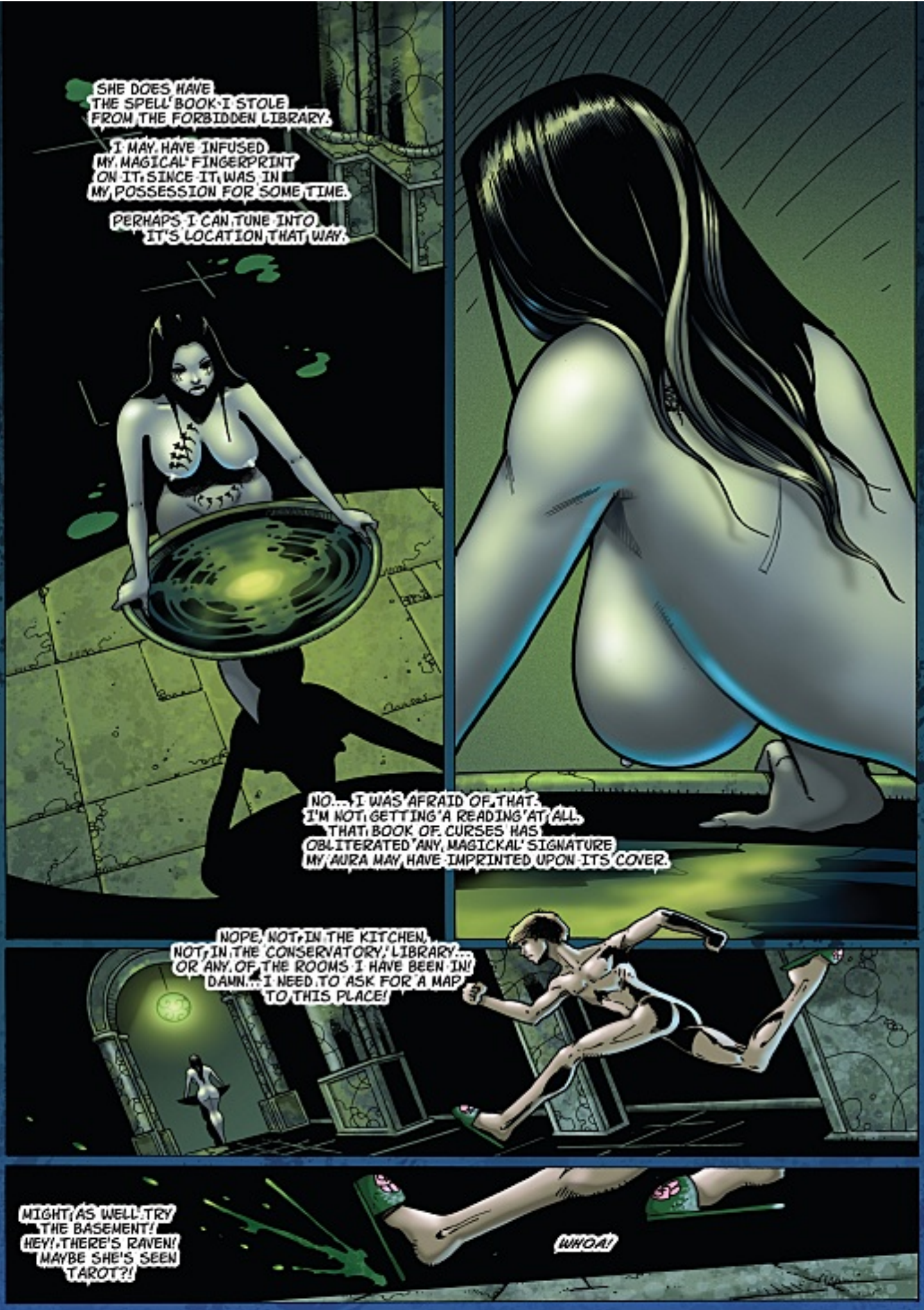
THE BLACK ROSE WITCH MANOR
HUH?! TAROT?!
HEY TAROT, YOU IN THE BATHROOM? TAROT?!
NOPE, SHE'S NOT HERE. MAYBE SHE'S IN ANOTHER PART OF THE HOUSE?
MY GUT IS TELLING ME SOMETHING IS NOT RIGHT.
SHE COULD HAVE SLIPPED AND FALLEN... AND CAN'T GET UP! MAYBE SHE TRIPPED DOWN THE STAIRS OR IS CHOKING ON A MIDNIGHT SNACK!
I WON'T BE ABLE TO SLEEP UNLESS I FIND HER.

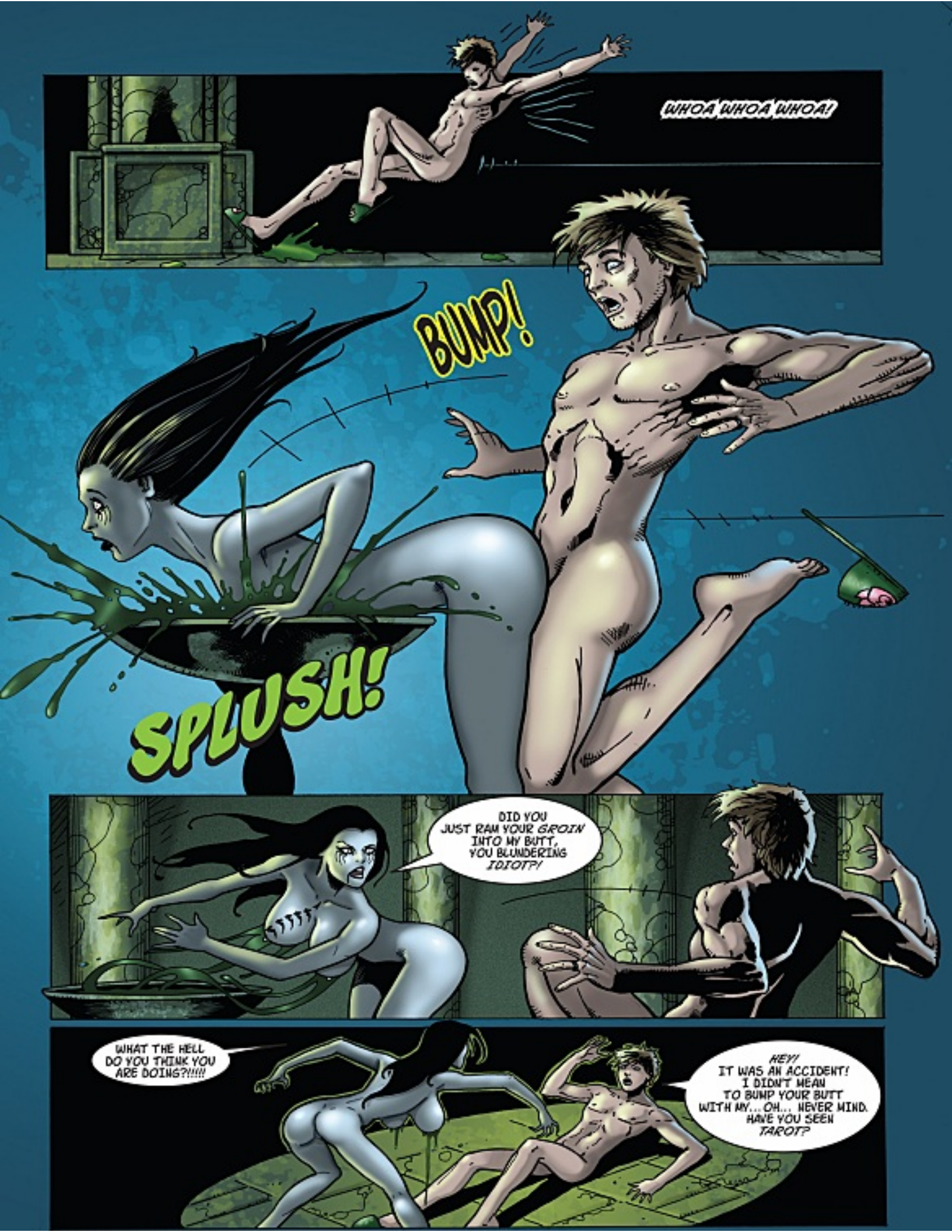
I KNOW I'M HEALED. THE CAULDRON HAS NEVER FAILED.
BUT, I CAN STILL FEEL THE STING FROM THE WOUNDS THORNWIC'S APPRENTICE GAVE ME.
THERE IS ALWAYS RESIDUAL PAIN WHEN IT COMES TO WOUNDS MADE BY MAGICK.
AND BY THE WAY, MY BODY THROBS, HER SWORDS WERE NO DOUBT ENCHANTED.
I'M NOT SURE HOW I'M GOING TO TRACK DOWN THAT ALBINO ELF TO GET MY BOOK BACK.

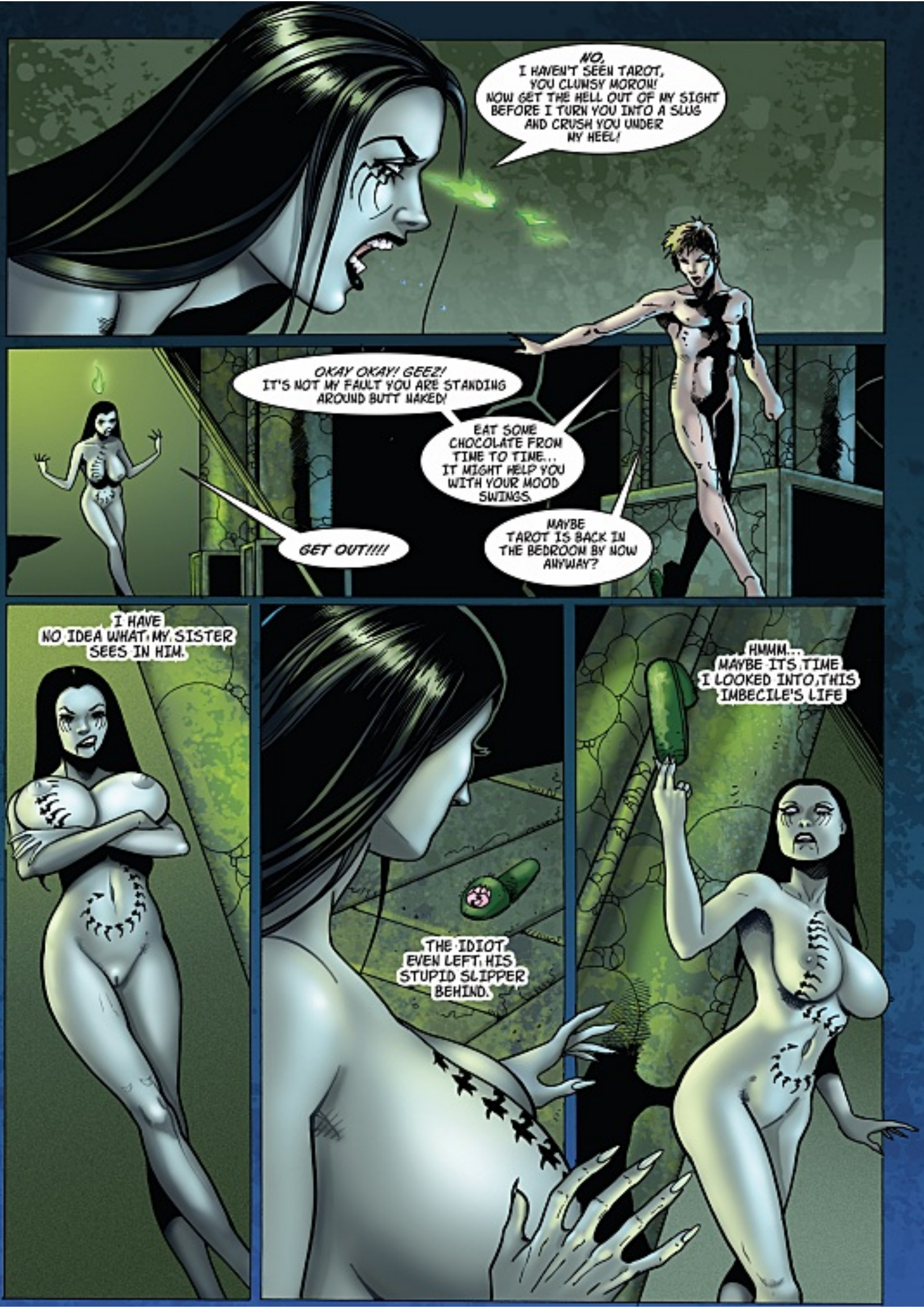
SHE USED MY OWN BLOOD TO LOCATE ME.
I DON'T EVEN HAVE A SINGLE HAIR TO AID ME IN MY TRACKING SPELL.
SITTING HERE SOAKING ISN'T GETTING ME ANY CLOSER TO FINDING HER.



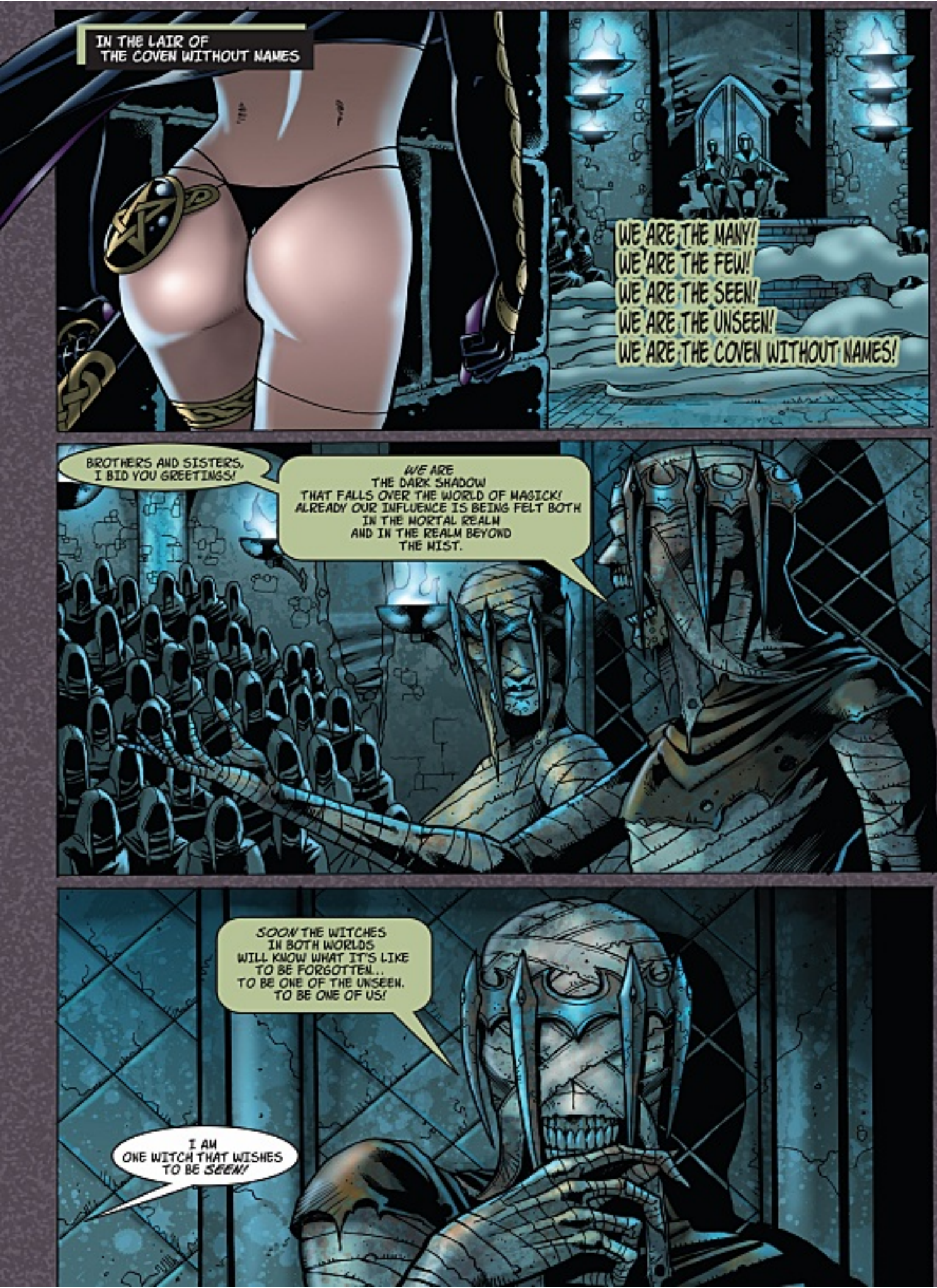
THE FAERY REALM, WHERE I SUSPECT SHE IS HIDING, IS VAST.
THERE IS NO WAY I CAN JUST GO THERE AND START LOOKING UNDER EVERY ROCK AND BUSH.
EVEN IF I START INTERROGATING THE LOCALS, THEY WON'T KNOW.
I'M SURE HER LAIR IS A SECRET.


SHE DOES HAVE THE SPELL BOOK I STOLE FROM THE FORBIDDEN LIBRARY.
I MAY HAVE INFUSED MY MAGICAL FINGERPRINT ON IT SINCE IT WAS IN MY POSSESSION FOR SOME TIME.
PERHAPS I CAN TUNE INTO IT'S LOCATION THAT WAY.
NO... I WAS AFRAID OF THAT. I'M NOT GETTING A READING AT ALL. THAT BOOK OF CURSES HAS OBLITERATED ANY MAGICKAL SIGNATURE MY AURA MAY HAVE IMPRINTED UPON ITS COVER.
NOPE, NOT IN THE KITCHEN, NOT IN THE CONSERVATORY, LIBRARY... OR ANY OF THE ROOMS I HAVE BEEN IN! DAMN... I NEED TO ASK FOR A MAP TO THIS PLACE!
MIGHT AS WELL TRY THE BASEMENT! HEY! THERE'S RAVEN! MAYBE SHE'S SEEN TAROT?!
WHOA!


WHOA WHOA WHOA!
BUMP!
SPLUSH!
DID YOU JUST RAM YOUR GROIN INTO MY BUTT, YOU BLUNDERING IDIOT?!
WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU ARE DOING?!!!!!
HEY! IT WAS AN ACCIDENT! I DIDN'T MEAN TO BUMP YOUR BUTT WITH MY... OH... NEVER MIND. HAVE YOU SEEN TAROT?


NO, I HAVEN'T SEEN TAROT, YOU CLUMSY MORON! NOW GET THE HELL OUT OF MY SIGHT BEFORE I TURN YOU INTO A SLUG AND CRUSH YOU UNDER MY HEEL!
OKAY OKAY! GEEZ! IT'S NOT MY FAULT YOU ARE STANDING AROUND BUTT NAKED!
EAT SOME CHOCOLATE FROM TIME TO TIME... IT MIGHT HELP YOU WITH YOUR MOOD SWINGS.
MAYBE TAROT IS BACK IN THE BEDROOM BY NOW ANYWAY?
GET OUT!!!!
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT MY SISTER SEES IN HIM.
THE IDIOT EVEN LEFT HIS STUPID SLIPPER BEHIND.
HMMM... MAYBE ITS TIME I LOOKED INTO THIS IMBECILE'S LIFE

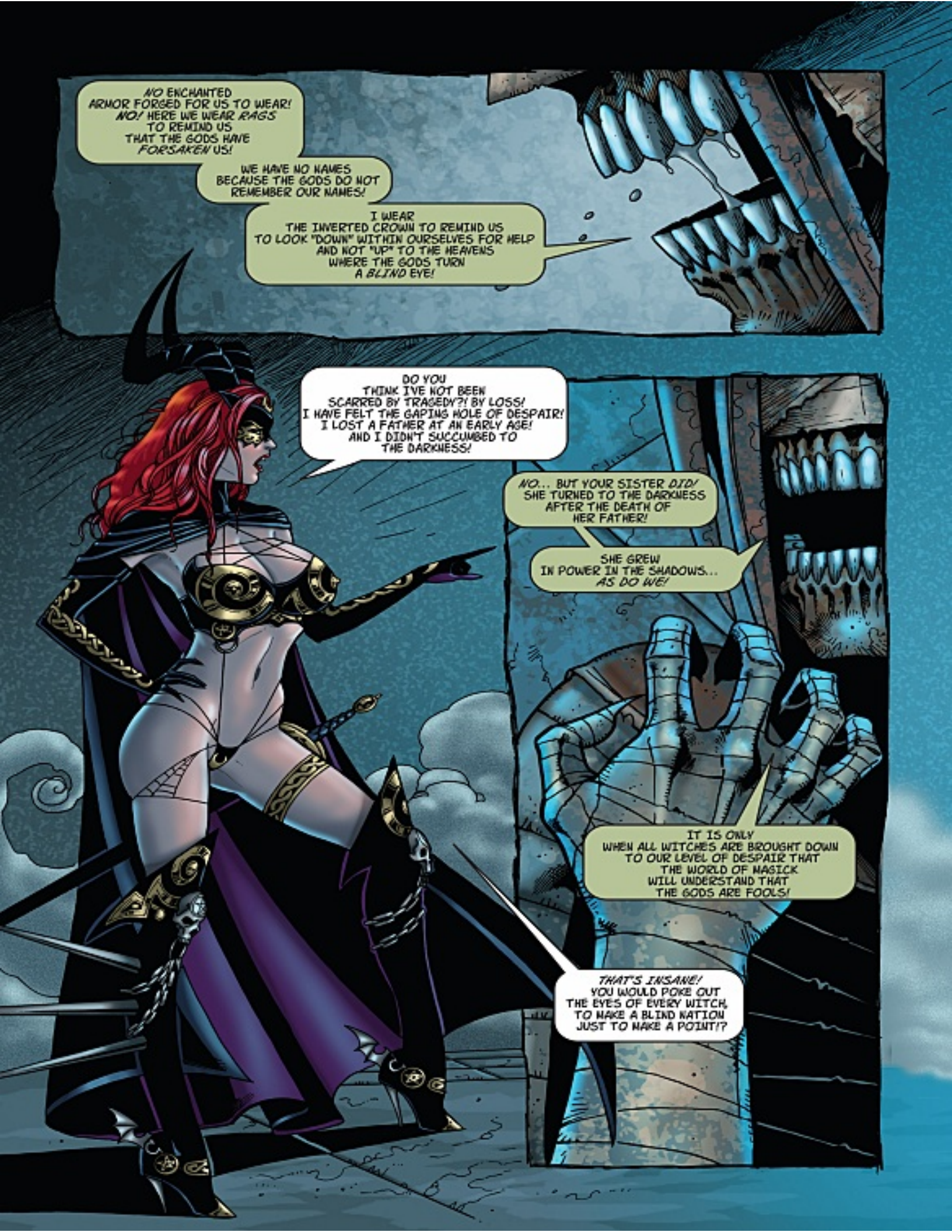
I'LL TAKE A LOOK INTO HIS PAST... SEE WHAT MADE HIM THE MAN HE IS TODAY.
OH MY!


IN THE LAIR OF THE COVEN WITHOUT NAMES
WE ARE THE MANY!
WE ARE THE FEW!
WE ARE THE SEEN!
WE ARE THE UNSEEN!
WE ARE THE COVEN WITHOUT NAMES!
BROTHERS AND SISTERS, I BID YOU GREETINGS!
WE ARE THE DARK SHADOW THAT FALLS OVER THE WORLD OF MAGICK! ALREADY OUR INFLUENCE IS BEING FELT BOTH IN THE MORTAL REALM AND IN THE REALM BEYOND THE MIST.
SOON THE WITCHES IN BOTH WORLDS WILL KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE FORGOTTEN.. TO BE ONE OF THE UNSEEN. TO BE ONE OF US!
I AM ONE WITCH THAT WISHES TO BE SEEN!

GIVE ME ONE REASON...
WHY I SHOULDN'T DESTROY THIS CHAMBER ...
AND BRING IT'S STONES DOWN UPON ALL YOUR ACCURSED HEADS?!
IT'S HER!
IT'S HER!
IT'S HER!
THE SWORDMAIDEN!!!!!

I FEEL MY WRATH BOILING TO THE SURFACE. WITH EACH SYLLABLE I UTTER, I FEEL IT TRYING TO BREAK OUT.
BUT I WON'T GIVE THEM THE SATISFACTION. I WON'T LET THEM SEE ME LOSE CONTROL!
YES, THE SWORDMAIDEN!
THE SWORDMAIDEN THAT YOU ORDERED TO BE *ABDUCTED!*
THE SWORDMAIDEN THAT YOU ORDERED TO FEED *WORMS* TO!
THE SWORDMAIDEN THAT YOU TRIED TO *REPLACE* ON HER HANDFASTING DAY!!!
THAT SWORDMAIDEN!
AND YOU SHOULD KNOW. IF I WANTED THAT BLADE TO PIERCE YOUR SKULL, IT WOULD BE *THERE!*
SO DON'T TEST ME A SECOND TIME!

AYE, IT WAS I THAT GAVE THE ORDERS! BUT DO NOT WALK IN HERE WITH THAT ATTITUDE, PRIVILEGED WITCH! THE GODS HAVE SMILED UPON YOU SINCE BIRTH!
THE GODS HAVE ABANDONED US LONG AGO!! THEY HAVE FORGOTTEN OUR NAMES, SO WE HAVE FORGOTTEN THEIRS!
WE SERVE NO ONE BUT OURSELVES!
THE GODS LOVE US AND PROTECT US...
SPARE ME YOUR SERMON, SWORDMAIDEN!
LOVE US AND PROTECT US?!
TELL THAT TO THE ONES BORN WITH DISEASES! TELL THAT TO THE ONES SUFFERING FROM CHRONIC PAIN! TELL THAT TO THE ONES LIVING IN THE GUTTERS, FOR THEY ARE HOMELESS!
THEY ARE NOT AS LUCKY AS YOU! YOU LIVED IN A MANSION ALL YOUR LIFE!
YOU NEVER FELT THE PAIN OF HUNGER! YOU NEVER FELT THE DESPAIR AND HOPELESSNESS OF A PARENT THAT COULD NOT FEED THEIR CHILDREN BECAUSE THEY WERE POOR!
DON'T TELL ME THE GODS CARE!
THERE WAS NO MAGICKAL SWORD HANDED DOWN BY THE GODDESS TO ANY OF US!


NO ENCHANTED ARMOR FORGED FOR US TO WEAR! NO! HERE WE WEAR RAGS TO REMIND US THAT THE GODS HAVE FORSAKEN US!
WE HAVE NO NAMES BECAUSE THE GODS DO NOT REMEMBER OUR NAMES!
I WEAR THE INVERTED CROWN TO REMIND US TO LOOK "DOWN" WITHIN OURSELVES FOR HELP AND NOT "UP" TO THE HEAVENS WHERE THE GODS TURN A BLIND EYE!
DO YOU THINK IVE NOT BEEN SCARRED BY TRAGEDY?! BY LOSS! I HAVE FELT THE GAPING HOLE OF DESPAIR! I LOST A FATHER AT AN EARLY AGE! AND I DIDN'T SUCCUMBED TO THE DARKNESS!
NO... BUT YOUR SISTER DID! SHE TURNED TO THE DARKNESS AFTER THE DEATH OF HER FATHER!
SHE GREW IN POWER IN THE SHADOWS... AS DO WE!
IT IS ONLY WHEN ALL WITCHES ARE BROUGHT DOWN TO OUR LEVEL OF DESPAIR THAT THE WORLD OF MAGICK WILL UNDERSTAND THAT THE GODS ARE FOOLS!
THAT'S INSANE! YOU WOULD POKE OUT THE EYES OF EVERY WITCH, TO MAKE A BLIND NATION JUST TO MAKE A POINT!?

LET ME HELP YOU AND YOUR COVEN! MAYBE I CAN SHOW YOU A BETTER WAY WITHOUT HARMING PEOPLE.
THE ONLY WAY YOU CAN HELP US IS TO *DIE* LIKE WE PLANNED!
THE SWORDSMAN TO THE GOD IS MISSING FROM THE FAERY REALM AND NOW IT'S YOUR TURN TO VANISH.
WITHOUT THE TWO CHOSEN SWORDS OF THE GODS ... THERE IS *NOTHING* THAT WILL STAND IN OUR WAY!
SO TAKE YOUR BLADE, SWORDMAIDEN, AND RUN IT THROUGH YOUR HEART AND BE DONE WITH YOU OR WE WILL DO IT FOR YOU!
I AM THE SWORDMAIDEN TO THE GODDESS! I'M CHARGED WITH KEEPING THE BALANCE BETWEEN MAN AND MAGICK! SO THAT MEANS... I AM *YOUR* VOICE... TO *THEM*!!!

CRASH
I NEVER CALLED UPON THE GODS LIKE THIS BEFORE.
BUT I BELIEVE THIS IS AN URGENT MATTER.
SOMETIMES WE FEEL ALONE ON THIS PLANE OF EXISTENCE.
IF I CAN HELP RELIEVE THAT ANXIETY... I SHOULD TRY.

IT IS AN OVERWHELMING FEELING TO BE IN THE PRESENCE OF THE GODS.
TO SEE THEM FACE-TO-FACE.
TRUTH BE TOLD, WE ARE ALWAYS IN THEIR PRESENCE. MOST OF THE TIME WE ARE TOO BUSY TO RECOGNIZE THEM.
I PULL UP MY SWORD AND LEAVE. THIS SHOULD BE PRIVATE.
SOMETIMES IT IS NECESSARY TO HAVE A CONVERSATION WITH ONE'S GODS.
I BELIEVE THIS WILL BE A LONG TALK. THEY HAVE MUCH TO DISCUSS.
HERE WILL BE TEARS... ANGER... AND FINALLY... PEACE. SOMETIMES THE GODS NEED TO ANSWER FOR THEIR ACTIONS... OR INACTION.

AT THE MANSION.
DAMN IT, SHE'S NOT BACK! WHERE THE HECK DID SHE GO?
SO THIS IS YOUR NEW PLACE... I'D SAY YOU MARRIED UP.
CRYPT CHICK! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?! HOW ABOUT SOME PRIVACY ... GEEZ!!!!
RELAX: I'VE SEEN IT ALL BEFORE! REMEMBER? JUST CHECKING OUT YOUR NEW DIGS, THAT'S ALL. WHERE'S WRAITH, YOUR GHOST DOG?
I THINK HE'S CHASING TAROT'S WINGED CAT.
AND YOUR REDHEAD?
I DON'T KNOW. THAT'S WHAT I'M TRYING TO FIND OUT!

SPEAK OF THE DEVIL!
TAROT! WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?! I WAS WORRIED!
I'M SORRY JON, BUT I FOUND THE COVEN WITHOUT NAMES AND...
YOU WENT THERE WITHOUT ME?!!!
IT WAS TOO DANGEROUS; YOU MAY HAVE BEEN INJURED!
WHAT?! I CAN TAKE CARE OF MYSELF! I WON'T GET HURT!
LIKE THE TIME YOU WERE STABBED?*
YOU WERE STABBED?!
I...
AND SHOT.

*IN ISSUE #98 OF TAROT

YOU WERE SHOT AND DIDN'T TELL ME!!!!!!
THANKS A LOT.
HEY, ANYTIME.
TAROT, IT WAS WAY TOO DANGEROUS TO GET YOU INVOLVED!
SOUNDS FAMILIAR.
OOOH! I'M SCREWING THIS ALL UP! YOU'RE RIGHT! I SHOULD HAVE BROUGHT YOU ALONG! I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO WORRY!
SAME WITH ME! I LOVE YOU VERY MUCH, JON, AND I WOULD BE DEVASTATED IF SOMETHING HAPPENED TO YOU WHILE YOU WERE ON ONE OF MY MISSIONS. BUT I SEE YOU SUFFER IF YOU DON'T COME WITH ME.
SO IT'S SETTLED THEN. I WILL ALWAYS LET YOU COME ALONG ON MY MISSIONS.

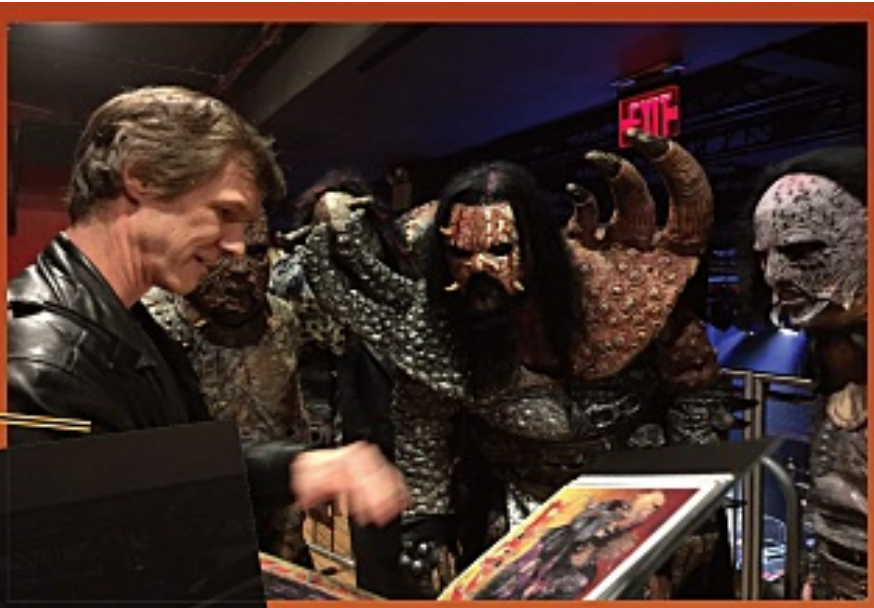
AND I WILL ALWAYS HAVE YOU BY MY SIDE OR MINE.
UGH! AND I'M OUT OF HERE!
ALL I WANT TO DO NOW IS GET OUT OF THIS ARMOR AND GET SOME SLEEP.
I'M WITH YOU, GIRL! UH, I THINK I MADE YOUR SISTER MAD! I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT IT IN THE MORNING.
OHP
I LOVE YOU TAROT, SWEET DREAMS.
I JUST CAN'T PUT HER IN DANGER.
I LOVE YOU TOO JON.
GODS FORGIVE ME... I CAN'T PUT YOU IN HARMS WAY.
END OF ISSUE #103
JOIN US IN MAY 2017 FOR TAROT#104 "BELTANE FIRES"

A PEEK OF WHAT'S TO COME MAY 2017....

...BELTANE FIRES!

THIS BEWITCHING TAROT READER IS EMILY ASTRÖM

JIM & HOLLY MEET LORD!!



JIM CREATED A SPECIAL PIN UP JUST FOR THEM!

HOLLY DREW A CHIBI FOR AMEN. THEY'RE SHARING A CUPCAKE WITH EYE-CING ON IT!

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JIM BALENT PRESENTS

Teen Tarot

BY HOLLY G!

CUPCATS
OH MY NOON AND STARS! LOOK AT THIS CUTE BAKERY THAT JUST OPENED!
I JUST LOVE YOUR NEW ESTABLISHMENT!
THANKS! HOW CAN I HELP..
...YOU?
WELL LET'S SEE. I HAVE FIVE DOLLARS.
I'D LIKE TO TRY ONE OF THOSE PINK YUMMY LOOKING SWEETS.
OH! YOU MEAN THIS PINK YUMMY CAKE?
I'LL GET SOME MILK AND SHARE IT WITH YA!
CUPCAKE
$5
$500
END

BroadSword Girl
Feel the Magick!
Our BroadSword Girl
For this issue is Kristina Mullenix Surrounding our Gorgeous Goddess is our very own card deck "Tarot, Witch of the Black Rose Deck for Dealing & Divination" for more info visit: www.jimbalent
To Be a BroadSword Girl, pose with a Sword and take a nice clear photo. BroadSword Girls will receive a BroadSword Girl tee and Bonus Comics! Send a nice big jpg titled with your name to: holly@jimbalent.com
Photography:
Terry Ewald Photography

Tarot, Witch of the Black Rose & BroadSword Comics® TM Jim Balent 1999-2017

Tyrant
Lizard
King

MPIRE